

15 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Worldwide Briefing Paper--Soviet Economy

1. I was struck that in last night's discussion there was virtually complete unanimity on the deficiencies in the Soviet economy as well as on the social, demographic and attitudinal problems. What I would like to consider doing for my worldwide briefing is, after a paragraph or so capsulating those problems--manpower, transporation, agriculture, overall growth--to lay out the magnitude of the burden this economy carries and its military buildup, support of proxies, and involvement in the Third World through military aid, economic assistance, naval involvement, broadcast and propaganda efforts, etc., all of which will have been described earlier in the briefing. This would have to be done in an impressionistic way with illustrative specifics and orders of magnitude. I'd like to try it along these lines:

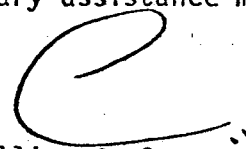
-- Lay out a comparison of the size of the Soviet economy against the aggregate economy of the Alliance.

-- Compare military expenditures in absolute and percentage of effort terms.

-- Compare merchant marines, arms sales to the Third World, economic assistance and military advisers in other countries, support of proxies (figure of some \$22 billion we had last year), radios.

-- How all this compares in the aggregate and percentage of national effort.

2. I would appreciate any suggestions you may have as to how this can be done or improved upon. If it could be done well it might provide the Congress with useful perspectives on both defense budgets and security assistance, as well as attract attention to useful low-cost competitive instruments like military officer training, military assistance missions, student programs, etc.

  
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